

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-22, 24, 27-34, 36, 39-58, 60, 63-70, 72, and 75-136 have been canceled. Claims 23, 25-26, 35, 37-38, 59, 61-62, 71, and 73-74 have been amended. Claims 23, 25-26, 35, 37-38, 59, 61-62, 71, 73-74, 137-154, 161-165, 167, 168, 175-179, 181 and 182 are currently pending in the application. Applicants submit that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicants respectfully request this response be entered and made of record.

Allowable Claims

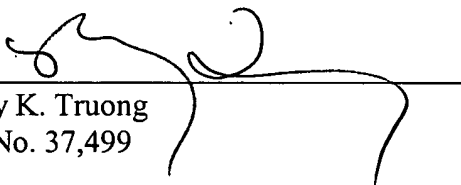
In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 137-154, 161-165, 167-168, 175-179, and 181-182. Applicants thank the Examiner for this allowance. The Examiner also stated that claims 23, 25-26, 35, 37-38, 59, 61-62, 71, and 73-74 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants submit that 23, 25-26, 35, 37-38, 59, 61-62, 71, and 73-74 are now in condition for allowance. Since claims 23, 25-26, 35, 37-38, 59, 61-62, 71, 73-74, 137-154, 161-165, 167-168, 175-179, and 181-182 are the only claims pending in the application, Applicants submit that the overall application is now in condition allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that this response be entered and made of record, and that a notice of allowance be issued.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 22, 2007

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on January 24, 2007

  
Annette Jacobs